

Application No. 10/607,290

**Remarks**

The Office Action of December 2, 2004, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blitzer. Blitzer teaches a toner concentration monitor for use with an electrographic apparatus having an interface mechanism for receiving a replacement toner container upon removal of an exhausted toner container and also having a replenishment mechanism for dispensing fresh toner from a received container to the developer mixture to replace toner used during the development process. The monitor produces a first signal representative of the reflectivity of the developer mixture. A digital computer receives a count signal each time a replacement container is received by the interface mechanism. The computer responds to these count signals and produces an offset signal adapted to compensate for changes in the reflectivity of the developer mixture caused by the build up of a film of toner material on the carrier particles (carrier scumming). Such scumming generally occurs in proportion to the amount of toner used. The digital computer, in response to the first signal and the offset signal, provides an accurate representation of the concentration of toner in the developer mixture. When the toner concentration is below a desired level, the computer actuates the replenishment mechanism which adds fresh toner to the developer mixture. Blitzer does not teach compensating which includes determining a carrier age of the developer; and correlating the carrier age to a carrier age correction factor.

Claims 5-8 and 13-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

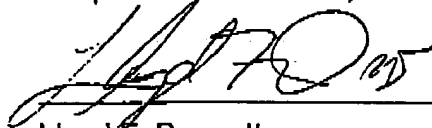
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Applicants have amended the claims as such and now believe the claims are in allowable condition.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby directed to call Lloyd F. Bean, II, at Telephone Number 585-423-4520, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,



Lloyd F. Bean, II  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 37,775  
(585) 423-4520

LFB/cw

Xerox Corporation  
Xerox Square 20A  
Rochester, New York 14644